

Morristown Conservation Commission

September 23, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Town Offices.

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Richard Sargent,
Jennifer Andrews, Dave Stevens, Jess Zehngut, Kristen Connelly.

Absent: Brent Teillon, Mariah Keagy

Guests: Graham Mink, Robert Heanue, Johnathon Miles

The August meeting minutes were approved. There was no treasurer's report. Meeting minutes will be reviewed 10 days after they are sent or revised by the Chair at the next meeting.

Old Business:

1. **Kenfield Brook Island** – The Town of Morristown will take ownership of the island. Eric Dodge has sent a letter to LCPC that the Town will accept it, but it will take time for the actual transfer of ownership to occur.
2. **Photo Contest** – is now closed. Some photos will be highlighted on Saturday. Jennifer congratulated Kristin on the work she had done on the contest to celebrate the Town's natural beauty.
3. **Jens Hilke meeting** – Jens is willing to assist the MCC in fund raising development. Brent was not present to explain further. October 19 is the proposed date for the meeting with Jens and 4-5 MCC members. The meeting may be at the Tegu Building.
4. **Keeping Track** – Sue Morse has canceled her presentation and Peoples Academy does not want guests in the auditorium due to Covid 19. We should follow up with Sue when it becomes possible to hold a public meeting. We have paid Sue already for the presentation.
5. **Town Forest Parking Lot** – the parking lot is proposed for Bryan Pond Rd. We received from the FPR Stewardship Committee a response to our request. We still need to work out the details for the lot without a contractor preparing a design. FPR has not committed any funds to the project at this time but may. The next FPR Stewardship Committee meeting is in October. Graham Mink notified us that the Sullivan property is for sale again and that the price is going up.

New Business

1. **Johnathon Miles property, 799 Washington Highway** - John requested that the use of the Greaves Farm conserved lot managed by MCC, or his land be used as an alternate path for walkers on Washington Highway. Many people walk the edge of the road and there is a pedestrian-safety issue where the road bends at his property. We should consider exploring a trail along the tributary of Potash Brook on his land. He would be willing to allow a path along the town road right-of-way as well. Mariah should meet

with John and come up with some possible options. Signage might also be added. It was suggested that John Miles go to the selectboard to share his concerns and suggestion for a better pedestrian access. We may want to ask the Copley Hospital if they would be willing to provide some funding for the trail since many of their workers use it. He is also interested in the Town conserving the Stewart Farm property (Greaves land) between his property and Lamoille Health Partners, Inc. The property is value at \$1.1 million for 13.8 acres.

2. **Trail work in Town Forest** – probably no additional workdays will happen this year but we should do a walk thru to identify any leftover problems.
3. **Graham Mink** – Graham Mink introduced himself. He has been completing new housing construction projects the last few years. There is a large demand for new work force housing. He believes his projects have the lowest impact on the environment since they are urban infill projects. Do we have any suggestions for him to improve his projects? Jess stated that she was supportive of his work but that he should consider adding greenspace to his projects.
4. **Bugbee Springs** - Jennifer, Ron, and Kristen Sharpless of SLT went to Bugbee Springs. They found the two dams that once held the water supply for the Village. It is possible that some houses on Rte. 15 still use this water supply.
5. **Town of Morristown Trail System and Conserved Lands** – Ron handed out a map showing trails and conserved lands in Morristown.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary